

REMARKS

In paragraph 1 of the last office action, page 1 of the specification is objected to because the serial number of the cited related patent application is missing. So by this amendment, that missing serial number is added to page 1 of the specification.

Next in paragraph 3 of the last office action, all of the claims 1-11 of the present case are rejected under 35USC103 for being obvious based on the combined teachings of U.S. Patent 6,449,739 (Landan) and U.S. Patent 6,449,553 (Klemets). To support the rejection of independent claim 1, several specific parts of the Landan and Klemets patents are cited in the office action starting at the bottom of page 3 and continuing through all of page 4.

Accordingly, to overcome the above rejection of claim 1, that claim is hereby amended such that it expressly recites limitations which are not taught or suggested by the cited prior art. Two key limitations, and their significance, will now be explained.

Claim 1, as amended, calls for the step of "storing, in a single computer, a representation of multiple simulated control terminals for said video server". One preferred representation is shown in Fig. 5 by items 32c and 32d. Item 32c is an identifier for each simulated control terminal, and item 32d is the simulated control terminal's "current state". In Fig. 5, the term "SCT" is an abbreviation of "simulated control terminal". This is evident from the entries c and d in TABLE 2 on page 15 of the Detailed Description.

Claim 1, as amended, also calls for the step of "generating output signals, from said single computer, . . . which represent -a) said one particular VCR-like command, and b) an identifier for said one particular simulated control terminal". This step is shown in Fig. 5 by item 32e, and by entry e in TABLE 2 on page 16. The identifier that is sent with the command tells the video server which particular simulated control terminal is sending the command.

Due to the above quoted limitations from claim 1, multiple control terminals for the video server are simulated by a single computer. This single computer, which simulates multiple control terminals, is item 31 in Fig. 2. To achieve this simulation, the Fig. 2 computer 31 executes the simulator program 32 which is shown in detail in Fig. 5, as explained above.

By comparison, in Landan, multiple "host computers 40" are required in order to simulate multiple sources of commands for the transactional server 30. This is seen from Fig. 1 in Landan wherein a total of "N" host computers are required. This also is described at lines 17-23 on column 5 in Landan. Thus in Landan, one-hundred of the host computers 40 are required to simulate one-hundred sources of commands for the server 30.

In Landan, each host computer 40 executes a program 32 which is called an "AGENT", and the AGENT program merely simulates "the action of users" of the transactional server 30. See column 5 at lines 17-18. For example, the AGENT program simulates a user clicking a mouse on a command which is displayed on a computer monitor.

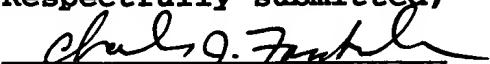
But the AGENT program 32 does not simulate the computer 40 itself. Therefore, in Landan, a total of N actual computers 40 are needed to simulate the users on N actual computers that send commands to the server 30.

With regard to Klemets, it merely teaches a video-on-demand system which includes a video-on-demand server. No method of testing the video-on-demand server is taught by Klemets.

Based on the above differences between the limitations of claim 1, and the teachings of Landan combined with Klemets, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not obvious. Thus, claim 1 (and its narrower dependent claims 2-8) should now be in a condition for allowance.

All of the differences that have been pointed out above with regard to independent claim 1, as amended, also apply to independent claim 9 as amended. This is because the amended claim 9 expressly recites the two limitations from claim 1 that were quoted above. Thus, independent claim 9 (as well as its narrower dependent claims 10-11) should be in a condition for allowance.

Entrance of this amendment and an early Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: November 28, 2005

Patti S. Preddy

